

# Indiana Conservation Partnership **Business Plan**



2003 - 2008

# Indiana Conservation Partnership Business Plan 2003-2008

*This Business Plan has been developed by the Indiana Conservation Partnership to help provide a “road map” for the members of the partnership to follow over the next five years to address priority statewide soil and water related natural resource issues. The members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership are the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Department of Natural Resources- Division of Soil Conservation, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.*

*For each of the priority statewide resource concerns identified, the plan provides background information followed by a vision for the future of that respective natural resource. The plan also provides statements of intent that in essence spell out goals for the Indiana Conservation Partnership to accomplish over the next five years to address each of the statewide resource concerns. They are followed by specific action steps that will be taken over the next 18 to 24 months toward fulfilling the respective statements of intent. At least one of the partners of the Indiana Conservation Partnership has been designated to take the lead on each of the respective action steps and a date has been established for the action to be underway and/or completed as appropriate. The lead partner of course will need full cooperation and assistance from the other partners to accomplish the task. Other agencies and organizations that are mentioned in specific statements of intent or action steps are there because the Indiana Conservation Partnership has identified them as agencies and/or organizations that the partnership will need to seek input and cooperation from in order to accomplish the respective statements of intent or actions.*

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# Indiana Conservation Partnership

The Indiana Conservation Partnership jointly provides leadership in the state on natural resource conservation issues. As partners, we are interdependent, having independent responsibilities yet dependent upon each other for successful delivery of resource management programs and services.

The Indiana Conservation Partnership consists of the following organizations:

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service  
State Soil Conservation Board

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**Partnership Vision** *An innovative partnership dedicated to effective leadership and quality service in conserving and protecting Indiana's natural resources.*

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**Quality Policy** *We are committed to providing our customers with quality service through effective communication, professional integrity and mutual respect.*

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## Partnership Guiding Principles

### We share a commitment to:

- Listen, anticipate, and respond to our clientele's needs;
- Anticipate, identify, and address the relevant issues;
- Permit decision-making at the lowest appropriate level;
- Advocate total resource management;
- Maintain and enhance our locally led delivery system;
- Build new alliances to expand our partnership;
- Foster economically viable environmental policies;
- Improve the quality of life for future generations; and
- Sustain and conserve our natural resources and environment.

### We pledge to work together by:

- Advancing and practicing teamwork;
- Involving each partner in the decision making process;
- Communicating, coordinating, and cooperating;
- Promoting mutual respect, support, trust, and honesty; and
- Sharing in the leadership, ownership, credit, and responsibility.

### We will improve our efficiency and effectiveness as we:

- Put quality first;
- Empower people to make decisions;
- Demonstrate professionalism and dedication; and
- Strive for continuous improvement.



# WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Indiana for the most part has an abundant supply of water. However, pressures from population growth, industrial expansion, agriculture, and urban expansion are having an impact on the quality and adequacy of surface and ground water for various designated uses. These pressures increase the potential for sediments, nutrients, chemicals and pathogens to impair our water resources. These pressures also impact the potential for inadequate drainage and increased flooding. The local people in each watershed have the responsibility to undertake planning initiatives for water quality and quantity. The activities carried out by farmers, homeowners, developers, industries, cities and towns and many other water users will determine the future condition and impact of Indiana's water resources on the quality of life for our citizens.



## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

All of Indiana's surface and groundwater meets or exceeds established water quality standards for its respective designated uses.

## STATEMENTS OF INTENT

1. By 2007, 65 percent of soil and water conservation districts will have a formal working agreement with their respective county drainage boards which establishes their respective roles and responsibilities in attaining their mutual objective of ensuring adequate drainage while protecting soil and water quality to meet the needs of Indiana's citizens.
  - ✓ Meet with state association of drainage boards/surveyors leadership on how to implement mutual objectives.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC      **Completed:** 5/04
2. By 2006, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will develop the necessary relationships, coalitions and alliances to foster and/or participate in at least one watershed project per county to address streams or other water bodies on the 303(d) list or otherwise known to be threatened by non-point source pollution.
  - ✓ Acquire funds to hire an outreach support person to build awareness of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process among all SWCDs and partners.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD      **Completed:** 11/03
  - ✓ Establish means to continue regional watershed specialists and/or integrate their role into the Indiana Conservation Partnership through another arrangement.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS      **Completed:** 3/04
3. BY 2007, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will actively participate in any TMDL planning or implementation process required for water bodies impacted by non-point source pollution that can be controlled through appropriate partnership assistance.
  - ✓ Request IDEM representative to update and train Partnership Managers Team members on TMDL process and implementation plan.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue      **Completed:** 3/04



- ✓ Request IDEM representative to update and train technical field staff on TMDLs process and implementation plan.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Completed:** 6/04
  - ☐ Conservation Program Specialists (CPSs) will contact SWCDs to be involved in development and implementation of TMDLs as they are scheduled for their county. Support SWCDs in the development of watershed management plans on 303d listed streams within their county.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Estimated Completion:** 10/04
4. By 2006, 50 percent of the soil and water conservation districts will have a formal working agreement with their respective county health departments that spell out the roles and responsibilities of each party as well as opportunities for collaboration in addressing potential solutions to water quality problems caused by inadequate onsite waste disposal systems.
- ✓ CPSs will work with local SWCD and Indiana Conservation Partnership staff to locate and review any existing agreements.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Completed:** 4/04
  - ☐ Develop a template for use by SWCDs to review, update, or develop an agreement with their local board of health.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Estimated Completion:** 11/04
  - ☐ Meet with State Board of Health leadership on how to implement mutual objectives.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
5. By 2008, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will achieve a 25 percent increase (over 2003 levels) in land acreage on which a conservation system is being used to protect and improve surface or groundwater quality.
- ✓ Utilize technical service providers to provide technical assistance with developing comprehensive nutrient management plans for EQIP applicants.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 11/03
  - ☐ Establish cooperative agreements with eight SWCDs to expand technical assistance in critical workload areas.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 12/03
  - ☐ Establish cooperative agreements with an additional 10 SWCDs to expand technical assistance in critical workload areas.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 11/04
6. By 2006, 50 percent of Indiana's rivers, streams, legal drains and open ditches will be bordered by conservation buffers and/or other riparian area vegetative protection.
- ✓ The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program will be approved.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 10/03
  - ✓ Establish a funding mechanism for the Clean Water Indiana program.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 7/04
  - ☐ Obligate at least 25 percent of the buffer portion of the settlement funds set aside for easements in the White River fish kill corridor area.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
7. By 2006, 30 percent of agricultural producers will be developing and implementing nutrient and pest management plans to optimize the use of these inputs for crop production and water quality protection.
- ✓ Utilize technical service providers to help the Indiana Conservation Partnership provide technical assistance with developing nutrient and pest management plans for EQIP applicants.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 12/03

# SOIL QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY

The soil resource in Indiana is the foundation for our highly productive agriculture. Indiana consistently ranks in the top ten states nationally in productivity and farm income. These states are largely responsible for the high quality of life we enjoy in America. Nearly 70 percent of Indiana's land base is in our 62,000 farms. Indiana ranks second in the U.S. in terms of prime farmland, having 51 percent of its farmland defined as "prime." Although tremendous conservation advances have been made, additional progress is critical to sustaining the soil resource for long-term productivity.



## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Indiana's conservation partners will be adequately funded and trained to assess the status and condition of the state's soil resources to ensure long-term soil productivity in terms of profitably producing food and fiber. Ultimately, the public will understand the importance of a healthy soil resource base to ensure quality of life. Quality of life includes minimizing the negative impacts of soil erosion, sedimentation, off site pollution or other degradation of soil health, productivity, water quality and Indiana's overall economic status (exports, GNP, jobs, and related measures).

## STATEMENTS OF INTENT

1. By 2007, the health and sustainability of soil will be protected by the adoption of continuous no-till or other carbon building practices on 25 percent of Indiana's annually planted cropland.

✓ Use media outlets to publicize the benefits of no-till corn (e.g. loan officers, successful farmers, innovative use of EQIP funds to offset costs of converting to no-till management, surface water supply managers, etc).

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative

**Completed:** 10/03

- Seek opportunities to utilize Diagnostic Training Center to reach commercial/professional agri-business vendors with no-till topics (Ca/Mg ratio, organic matter buildup, soil density, compaction, fertilizer placement, pH).

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative

**Estimated Completion:** 8/04

- Develop educational tools (slide sets, powerpoint presentations, and a demonstration planter set up with various high residue options) demonstrating the benefits of using high residue management technology in cooperation with Indiana Conservation Partnership agencies and make available to partnership staff, growers and suppliers.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative

**Estimated Completion:** 10/04

2. By 2008, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will identify and promote opportunities for continuing education/training course(s) on soils knowledge and interpretive skills designed for Indiana Conservation Partnership staff, health department officials, Certified Crop Advisors and other interested parties that provide soils information to the public.

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- ✓ Incorporate programs related to soils, soil and water management, and water quality topics into the diagnostic training.

**Lead Agency:** CES

**Completed:** 8/03

- ✓ Partner with Indiana CCA to hold annual training conference and assure topics include soil and water quality. Utilize CPSs to help deliver topics.

**Lead Agency:** CES Agronomy      **Completed:** 12/03

- ✓ Coordinate with Purdue carbon sequestration public relations coordinator to disseminate soil quality benefits information.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative      **Completed:** 12/03

- ✓ Encourage and foster research opportunities for soil quality with USDA-NSERL, Purdue Agronomy.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative      **Completed:** 5/04

- ☐ Provide soils professional development for health department officials or contractors.

**Lead Agency:** CES      **Estimated Completion:** 9/04

- ☐ Conduct a basic soils training elective course in cooperation with Purdue Soils Teaching Lab (e.g. "Grit About Soils" workshop, etc.) for SWCD staff and 4-H Youth Educators.

**Lead Agency:** Purdue/CPS      **Estimated Completion:** 9/04

3. By 2007, research on new practices, techniques and methods of improving soil quality, as well as research to help document the benefits of soil quality enhancement will be underway regionally throughout Indiana.

4. By 2004, agricultural production recommendations will be based more on natural resource protection and net economic return for the grower rather than on yield.

- ✓ Work with the Indiana Conservation Partnership information specialists to highlight economic success stories by agriculture lenders and others that feature producers who are producing profitable returns while protecting soil & water resources.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative      **Completed:** 12/03

- ✓ Work with the Indiana Conservation Partnership information specialists to develop mini-series of press releases of producer success stories associated with no-till corn on a field-by-field basis.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS Conservation Tillage Initiative      **Completed:** 12/03

5. By 2008, soil quality improvement and its importance will be as much a part of the vocabulary of all Indiana Conservation Partnership employees as water quality improvement is today (2002).

- ✓ Utilize Indiana Conservation Partnership specialists to conduct sessions at area NRCS meetings to train technical staff on the benefits of improved soil quality in order to promote the benefits of no-till or high residue management systems.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS      **Completed:** 3/04

- ✓ Establish a Soil Quality training course for Indiana Conservation Partnership employees.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS      **Completed:** 6/04

- ☐ Partner with CES/CPSs to conduct basic intensive soils and agriculture training for new staff (with less than two years experience) in the Indiana Conservation Partnership.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS      **Estimated Completion:** 8/04

- ☐ Provide training to field technical staff on use of cd-based soil surveys.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS      **Estimated Completion:** 9/04

- ☐ Incorporate soil quality session into Purdue Extension ANR Educator fall training.

**Lead Agency:** CES      **Estimated Completion:** 10/04

6. By 2007, as biomass-based products usage increases in Indiana, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will ensure that the state's soil, water and other related natural resources are protected.

# EXPANDING THE CAPACITY OF THE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

The Indiana Conservation Partnership brings together a very important mix of local, state and federal entities and agencies to provide leadership, resource information, education and technical expertise to address soil, water and related natural resource concerns across the state. The soil and water conservation district (SWCD) in each of Indiana's 92 counties provides the local leadership to seek citizen input and assess the soil, water and related natural resource conditions in each respective county. The Cooperative Extension Service (CES) provides educational programming and direct educational assistance to districts in educating the public about soil, water and related natural resource issues. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil Conservation (IDNR-DSC) provides administrative, financial, program planning and technical assistance personnel and administers several state funded soil and water resource protection programs in cooperation with local conservation districts. The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides personnel with technical expertise in conservation planning, conservation practice design and specifications, and field application. NRCS develops and



creates county Soil Surveys and are responsible for the development and maintenance of the Field Office Technical Guide. NRCS also administers several federal conservation programs that provide cost-sharing or other incentives to landusers who address soil, water and related natural resources problems on their land.

## VISION FOR FUTURE

The Indiana Conservation Partnership will meet and/or exceed Indiana citizens' expectations in providing information about soil, water and related natural resources; identifying and prioritizing local soil and water resource concerns; and either providing direct assistance or connecting land users to sources of educational, technical and financial assistance.

Each respective Soil and Water Conservation District will be recognized by a majority of its county residents as the local clearinghouses for putting people with questions and concerns about soil and water quality problems in touch with people with answers and solutions. The Indiana Conservation Partnership will be highly respected by land users for their cooperative attitude and the quality of their work in providing educational, technical and financial assistance to address their soil and water quality problems.

## STATEMENTS OF INTENT

1. By 2003, all funding made available from federal, state and local sources for implementing conservation practices and technologies to improve soil and water quality will be fully obligated annually.

✓ Inform Indiana Conservation Partnership about state program funds available, tracking of funds obligated and remaining funds to be obligated.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Completed:** 9/03

✓ Inform Indiana Conservation Partnership about local program funds available, tracking of funds obligated and remaining funds to be obligated.

**Lead Agency:** SWCD

**Completed:** 9/03

✓ Inform Indiana Conservation Partnership about federal program funds available, tracking of funds obligated and remaining funds to be obligated.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS

**Completed:** 9/03



2. By 2005, at least 12 million dollars will be provided bi-annually in dedicated state funding for the Clean Water Indiana program to support additional watershed coordinators and technical assistance personnel along with cost-share funds and other incentives to implement practices and technologies that reduce non-point source water pollution.
- √ Continue building a coalition of CWI funding supporters and develop a coalition strategy for obtaining Clean Water Indiana funding.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 12/03
  - √ Develop and implement legislative strategy.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 3/04
  - √ Establish a funding mechanism for the Clean Water Indiana program.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 7/04
3. By 2005, 60 percent of the soil and water conservation districts will have a business plan that identifies the respective district's priority soil and water related resource concerns; and what actions they will take over the next five years to address those concerns.
- √ Present the benefits of business plans at IDEA conference.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Completed:** 10/03
  - √ An additional 20 SWCDs to build business plans.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Completed:** 4/04
  - ☐ Begin policy discussions with the State Soil Conservation Board on allocating grant funds, such as Clean Water Indiana and LARE, based on justification established in SWCD Business Plans.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 9/04
  - ☐ Each Region Director will make direct contact with at least two additional SWCDs to develop business plans.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
  - ☐ District conservationists will promote the value of business plans with SWCD staff and boards.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
  - ☐ Resource specialists and regional staff will promote the value of business plans with SWCD staff and boards.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
4. By 2006, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will be implementing a Quality Assurance Program that provides an effective tool for evaluating and improving the performance of each local member of the Indiana Conservation Partnership.
- √ Assemble a team representing each member of the Indiana Conservation Partnership to review and incorporate a performance review section that covers conservation district operations including local support to district operations provided by NRCS, DNR-Div. of Soil Conservation and CES.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 10/03
  - √ Complete field test of the new section as part of a few Quality Assurance Reviews with SWCDs that volunteer to be a pilot review location.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 6/04
  - ☐ Make adjustments from field test and seek approval of the new program by all Indiana Conservation Partnership members.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 12/04

5. By 2007, there will be a 50 percent increase in the number of personnel available from federal, state and local government and private sources across the state to provide technical assistance to land users willing to apply practices and technologies to improve soil and water quality.
- ✓ At least 75 technical service providers will be available to landowners for technical assistance.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 11/03
  - ✓ Establish cooperative agreements with eight SWCDs to expand technical assistance in critical workload areas.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 12/03
  - ✓ Educate coalition on the importance of Clean Water Indiana providing funding for technical assistance as authorized in the law.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 12/03
  - Establish cooperative agreements with an additional 10 SWCDs to expand technical assistance in critical workload areas.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 11/04
  - ✓ Educate SWCDs on the importance of using District funds to budget for technical assistance.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 1/04
6. By 2007, 50 percent of the soil and water conservation districts will employ a professionally trained manager with knowledge in program development and evaluation, personnel management, public relations, financial management and revenue enhancement.
- ✓ Provide a sample job description and sample vacancy announcement for the District Manager's (Executive Director's) position.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR/Purdue **Completed:** 6/03
  - ✓ Educate SWCDs on the importance of using District funds to budget for District Managers (Executive Directors).  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Completed:** 1/04
  - ✓ Communicate the importance and value of employing District Managers (Executive Directors).  
**Lead Agency:** Indiana Conservation Partnership Leaders Team **Completed:** 1/04
  - Use Clean Water Indiana, or other funding mechanisms, to provide challenge grants to SWCDs for funding of District Managers (Executive Directors).  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 8/04
7. By 2007, 75 percent of the soil and water conservation districts will be capable of providing the leadership and administrative support needed to develop watershed management plans with stakeholder input that meets the planning requirements of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
- ✓ Establish the means to continue regional watershed specialists and/or integrate their role into the Indiana Conservation Partnership through another arrangement.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 3/04

8. By 2007, at least 60 percent of the soil and water conservation districts will be applying for, or utilizing, 319 grant funds available from IDEM/EPA for personnel, demonstrations of new technologies and cost sharing for practices that support watershed project efforts that reduce non-point source water pollution.
- ☐ Establish the means to continue regional watershed specialists and/or integrate their role into the Indiana Conservation Partnership through another arrangement.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 3/04
  - ☐ Double SWCD participation in training sessions on applying for 319 grants.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 7/04
9. By 2005, all SWCD supervisors and staff will be trained in civil rights, equal opportunity and human relations. The intent is to develop a base of knowledge and “sense of positive relations” among SWCD members, staff and with the general public.
- ☐ With the senior partnership leader guidance develop draft “human relationship and values” guidelines. Deliverables will include a page guide and one-hour training module.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Estimated Completion:** 8/04
  - ☐ Approve guide and training.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Estimated Completion:** 10/04
  - ☐ Brief and release guide at Annual Conference.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Estimated Completion:** 1/05
  - ☐ All supervisors and staff will have one hour of training.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Estimated Completion:** 12/05
10. By 2005, the SWCD supervisors and staff will be trained in “working relationships with public officials.” Recognizing the need to maintain positive and on going relationships with public officials at the local (emphasis on local), state, and national levels training will include: identifying officials and their needs, oral and written communication with officials, basic understanding the political process, professional relations with officials, and use of the media.
- ✓ Senior leadership concurs with concepts.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 6/04
  - ☐ Draft training module with examples and ideas.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
  - ☐ Introduce and provide a briefing and training module to SWCD supervisors at Annual Conference  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 1/05
  - ☐ All supervisors and staff will have one hour of training.  
**Lead Agency:** IASWCD **Estimated Completion:** 12/05
11. By 2008, the annual state funding for Clean Water Indiana will leverage a 50 percent increase in annual local funding for soil and water conservation district operations (over current local funding levels) and at least eight million dollars annually in federal funding for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

# MANURE & ORGANIC NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Indiana is proud to be a leading state in the nation's livestock production. Poultry raised each year totals over 34 million birds. Cattle inventory exceeds 880,000 head, and hogs sold totals 6.2 million head with an inventory number of over 3 million. Although estimates vary greatly, a general estimate is that over 120 million pounds of nitrogen and nearly 114 million pounds of phosphorus are produced by Indiana's livestock each year and should be included as an important part of our soil fertility programs.



## VISION FOR FUTURE

Manure and other nutrient sources are managed and applied on land at rates that maximize production without damaging the state's surface and ground water. All organic wastes are applied in a manner that does not degrade water and soil quality. New technologies are adopted which result in the handling of manure and nutrients in an environmentally sound manner.

## STATEMENTS OF INTENT

1. By 2008, 60 percent of all livestock producers will recognize the importance of manure management and apply manure in a manner that maximizes crop production without damaging the state's soil health and surface and ground water.
  - ✓ Coordinate with Indiana Conservation Partnership and interested groups to develop a manure management educational program for all Indiana livestock producers and manure recipients and determine how to deliver it.  
**Lead Agency:** CES **Completed:** 3/04
  - ✓ Encourage county CES staff to work with SWCDs to distribute informational materials.  
**Lead Agency:** CES **Completed:** 3/04
2. By 2008, 60 percent of all livestock and crop producers utilizing manure will have nutrient management plans and/or grazing plans that maximize production without damaging the state's surface and ground water quality.
  - ✓ Provide tools to the SWCDs to inform livestock and crop producers on the availability of federal cost share funds.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Completed:** 12/03
  - ✓ Provide tools to the SWCDs to inform livestock and crop producers on the availability of state cost share funds.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC **Completed:** 12/03
3. By 2008, 30 percent of all livestock and crop producers utilizing manure will have implemented their nutrient management plans and/or grazing plans.
  - ✓ Inform Indiana Conservation Partnership staff and livestock and crop producers of the most appropriate technologies – new and existing – in manure and organic nutrient management.  
**Lead Agency:** CES **Completed:** 2/04
  - ❑ Based on workload analysis adequate technical support is provided to insure that 60 percent of EQIP funds are directed to livestock producers as stated in EQIP rules to address livestock issues.  
**Lead Agency:** NRCS **Estimated Completion:** 10/04



# WETLANDS

Wetlands—like soil, trees, fields, rivers, hills, and other natural resources—are vital components of the Indiana landscape. They serve important functions that result in both human benefits (such as to help maintain water quality and reduce flooding), and ecological benefits (such as to provide habitat for wildlife and plants). More than 85 percent of Indiana's pre-settlement wetlands have been converted to other uses, causing the remainder to be even more important. Wetland issues must be considered in the larger context of the need to remove excess surface water from the land to allow for various land uses.

Many of Indiana's towns and cities are located on former wetlands. Other converted wetlands serve as a basis for highly productive agricultural operations. Although wetlands have been an area of controversy for many years, the Indiana Conservation Partnership agrees that wetland restoration and conservation are important elements of a statewide natural resources program.



## VISION FOR FUTURE

No net loss of wetlands in Indiana is a short-term goal the Indiana Conservation Partnership will help attain. For the longer term, the Indiana Conservation Partnership will contribute in efforts to attain a net gain of the functions, values and acreage of wetlands in the state. The Indiana Conservation Partnership will be involved in discussions relating to local, state, and federal authority over activities involving wetlands with regard to laws, rules, and the establishment of long-term goals for wetland restoration and enhancement, while providing for adequate drainage.

## STATEMENTS OF INTENT

1. By 2004, there will be support among all Indiana Conservation Partnership members for no net loss, while realizing an increase in the function and value of wetlands in Indiana.
  - ✓ Provide guidance and assistance in educating Indiana Conservation Partnership members about wetland functions and values in order to develop common understanding of the need for wetland protection.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC      **Completed:** 12/03
  - ✓ Participate in the development of a uniform system to assess the function and value of specific wetlands.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC      **Completed:** 6/04
  - ☐ In cooperation with CES and other partners inform and educate the public about wetland definitions, functions, values and mitigation in a consistent manner.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC      **Estimated Completion:** 7/04
2. By 2004, there will be support among all Indiana Conservation Partnership members for the idea that existing wetlands not already under federal jurisdiction should be protected by state law.
  - ✓ Provide assistance, as appropriate, for implementation of wetland mitigation banking protocols, specifically the Interagency Coordination Agreement on Wetland Mitigation Banking within the State of Indiana.  
**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC      **Completed:** 3/04

- ✓ Support and participate in legislative and administrative processes to ensure that fair, reasonable, and common sense wetland regulations are adopted.

**Lead Agency:** IASWCD

**Completed:** 6/04

3. By 2005, the Indiana Conservation Partnership members will be recognized as leaders in helping resolve concerns and conflicts about wetland and related drainage issues.

- ☐ Support, participate, and provide leadership for organizational, administrative, and legislative forums focused on developing consensus.

**Lead Agency:** IASWCD

**Estimated Completion:** 12/04

4. By 2005, the public will have an enhanced understanding of the functions and values of wetlands, their role in a healthy ecosystem, and the rationale for wetland laws, regulations, and ordinances.

- ✓ In cooperation with CES, educate the public on the significance of wetlands and the laws that regulate activities related to them.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Completed:** 12/03

- ☐ Encourage participation in state and federal programs for wetland conservation, enhancement and/or restoration through information/education programs and conservation planning.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS/DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** On-going

5. By 2008, there will be a 20 percent increase over existing rates of establishment of restored and constructed wetlands for diverse purposes.

# OFF SITE IMPACTS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND LOSS OF FARM AND FOREST LANDS

Land that is converted to urban use without consideration for the natural resources is an important issue. Effective planning, education, and coordination with local planning and zoning agencies are critical elements in addressing this issue in Indiana.

Off-site sediment and other pollutants associated with construction/land disturbing activities and urban development can impair water quality, degrade aquatic habitat, reduce the capacity of drainage systems, increase flooding, and reduce reservoir water storage capacity. These issues can be addressed through effective planning, education, and the implementation of measures based on the best available technology.

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Natural resources information is understood and utilized by communities in planning for land use changes. Agricultural and natural lands are recognized as a valuable resource that has economic as well as environmental benefits. Sedimentation control and stormwater management become routine parts of construction activities in developing areas and the pollutants associated with this land use are minimized to a level that meets or exceeds established water quality standards.



## STATEMENTS OF INTENT

1. By 2004, organizations will be working together in a cooperative fashion to help people better understand land use issues and possible alternatives to solving those issues across the state.
  - ✓ The Indiana Conservation Partnership will initiate a meeting of the Indiana Land Resources Council and Indiana Land Use Consortium to identify shared concerns and solutions to Indiana land use issues.  
**Lead Agency:** Partnership Leaders Team    **Completed:** 12/03
  - ☐ Promote land use educational efforts to broaden the understanding of local land use issues.  
**Lead Agency:** CES    **Estimated Completion:** 12/04
2. By 2005, local decision makers, the public, and Indiana Conservation Partnership members will have a better awareness and understanding of what land use principles they want to consider in guiding their communities into the future.
  - ✓ Promote the joint Indiana Land Resource Council/Purdue-IUPUI-Ball State series of educational/training sessions held each year for community planning.  
**Lead Agency:** CES    **Completed:** 12/03
  - ☐ Promote the Indiana Land Use Consortium Crossroads Conference held in the late fall each year.  
**Lead Agency:** Partnership Leaders Team    **Estimated Completion:** 9/04
  - ☐ Use CES Land Use Team training to educate public and local offices on affecting proactive planning and zoning issues.  
**Lead Agency:** CES    **Estimated Completion:** On-going

3. By 2008, natural resource and farmland protection will be recognized as critical issues and addressed in the development of land use policies, plans, and regulations in a minimum of six counties.

✓ The Indiana Conservation Partnership leaders will meet with the Indiana Land Resource Council (ILRC), the Indiana Land Use Consortium (ILUC), and CES Land Use Team to identify ways the Indiana Conservation Partnership can work with counties that have an interest in developing land use policies, plans, and regulations for natural resource and farmland protection.

**Lead Agency:** Partnership Leaders Team      **Completed:** 12/03

4. By 2008, 5,000 acres of farmland is in a protected status with a new conservation easement.

☐ Develop an information package with interested entities about federal farm and forestland protection opportunities.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS

**Estimated Completion:** 12/03

✓ Work with interested entities to share examples of federal farmland and forestland conservation easement information with interested counties.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS

**Completed:** 12/03

☐ Work with interested entities to support a state level funded program to support community efforts for farmland and forestland protection.

**Lead Agency:** IASWCD

**Estimated Completion:** 12/04

☐ Seek partnership with other entities to acquire required match to fully utilize Farm and Ranchland Protection Program funds in Indiana.

**Lead Agency:** NRCS

**Estimated Completion:** 12/05

5. By 2008, erosion and sedimentation associated with construction activities will be reduced by assuring that 50 percent of construction projects are operating at or above an established minimum compliance level. The discharge of pollutants (i.e. heavy metals, hydrocarbons, etc.), associated with existing development and stormwater quantity issues are recognized as important resource issues and are being addressed in 25 percent of Indiana counties.

☐ Coordinate with local SWCDs to inform community leaders of the importance of construction site erosion and sediment control.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 7/04

☐ Involve SWCDs in stormwater management issues by providing training to SWCD supervisors and staff.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 7/04

☐ At least ten SWCDs will play an active role in the development and/or implementation of an MS4 Stormwater Quality Program.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 7/04

☐ Partner with CES Planning with POWER program to further develop the capacity of local officials so that they begin to consider natural resources as part of the planning process and to realize the attributes of local SWCDs as a contributor to the process.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 7/04

☐ Complete comprehensive erosion and sediment control training course and conduct at least three sessions for developers, contractors and others.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 7/04

☐ Increase the number of FTEs (Division and SWCD staff) and/or hire additional staff that adequately addresses the implementation of stormwater management programs.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 12/04



- ☐ Develop a process that will track construction projects and will assess compliance levels based on site inspections.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 12/04

6. By 2008, develop and/or obtain the technology, equipment, and standards to provide high quality technical assistance to developers, planners, and units of government.

- ☐ Update the Indiana Stormwater Quality Manual (formerly Indiana Handbook for Erosion Control).

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 7/04

- ☐ Encourage and promote the utilization and adoption of the Indiana Stormwater Quality Manual in delivering technical services and implementing stormwater quality measures.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 9/04

- ☐ Establish a review process that will maintain the technical integrity of the Indiana Stormwater Quality Manual through 2008.

**Lead Agency:** DNR-DSC

**Estimated Completion:** 9/04